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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<i>In re</i> Application of	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 3728
Mark CARTIER et al.	)	
	)	Examiner: TBD
Serial No. 10/053,495	)	
	)	Attorney Reference: 005127.00090
Filed: November 2, 2001	)	
	)	
For: FOOTWEAR MIDSOLE WITH	)	
COMPRESSIBLE ELEMENT IN	)	
LATERAL HEEL AREA	)	

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FEB 10 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

*IN THE SPECIFICATION:*

Please delete the final paragraph on page 5 of the specification, which states:

FIG. 7A is a perspective view of a support component according to the present invention.

Please delete the first, second, and third paragraphs on page 6 of the specification, which state:

FIG. 7B is a side elevational view of the support component depicted in FIG. 7A.

FIG. 7C is a back elevational view of the support component depicted in FIG. 7A.

FIG. 7D is a top plan view of the support component depicted in FIG. 7A.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 6 with the following paragraph:

FIG. 7A is a bottom plan view of a support component.

Please replace the fifth paragraph on page 6 with the following paragraph:

FIG. 7B is a cross-sectional view as defined by section 7B-7B of FIG. 7A.

Please replace the sixth paragraph on page 6 with the following paragraph:

FIG. 7C is a cross-sectional view as defined by section 7C-7C of FIG. 7A.

Please replace the seventh paragraph on page 6 with the following paragraph:

FIG. 7D is a cross-sectional view as defined by section 7D-7D of FIG. 7A.

Please delete the first and second paragraphs on page 15 of the specification, which state:

The primary purpose of the beveled portion, particularly the downward bevel in first support element 701, is to further reduce the rate of pronation in the wearer's foot. When the beveled portion contacts a playing surface, the curvature of the beveled portion permits the footwear to smoothly transition from the position at heel strike, wherein only the back-lateral corner of the footwear is in contact with the ground, to the position where a substantial portion of outsole 450 is in contact with the ground. That is, the beveled portion permits the footwear to smoothly roll both forward and to the medial side following heel strike. This smooth transition ensures that impact forces are first absorbed by support element 701 and then gradually transferred to support elements 702, 703, and 704, as described above, thereby reducing the rate of pronation.

The present invention is disclosed above and in the accompanying drawings with reference to a variety of preferred embodiments. The purpose served by disclosure of the preferred embodiments, however, is to provide an example of the various aspects embodied in the invention, not to limit the scope of the invention. One skilled in the art will recognize that numerous variations and modifications may be made to the preferred embodiments without departing from the scope of the present invention, as defined by the appended claims.